

Public Comment
Robert Cox

Subject: 2030 NAC Federal Register Notice (FRN) Comments/Feedback Virtual Meeting
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It is my understanding that one of the issues before this committee is whether to recommend the alteration of Directive 15 to include the term "Multiracial" on all federal government forms and on the 2030 census. I would like to thank you for reading my comment.

I am a Multiracial man and my racial heritage includes African American and White. According to the US Census, as of 2020, I am one of almost 34 million Americans who claim more than one racial heritage. After 2000, the percentage of Americans reporting more than one racial background was 2.9 percent. The percentage jumped to almost 12 percent after 2020.

The Census Bureau has dubbed the Multiracial population the fastest growing racial group in America and predicts a tripling of the population by 2060. Then there is the data indicating that we are the youngest racial population with a median age of 12 years old. All this adds up to the possibility that the US census could be trying to account for as many as 50 million Multiracial people in 2030. And 100 million Multiracial people in 2060. Clearly the Multiracial population in America has gone from a persistent but outlying statistical category, to a very real and very fast growing racial identity.

If terms like MOOMs and TOMR and "combination people" no longer work when describing the racial identity of 34 million Americans, those terms will stand as slurs to a racial group that is 50 million then 100 million strong.

I will say it again. I am a Multiracial man and my multiracial heritage is African American and White. That declaration of my racial *identity* also contains all the data the US Census or any other agency of government may need to quantify my racial *makeup*.

These two things go together – racial identity and racial makeup – for all the other groups on the current Directive 15 list of officially recognized racial groups in America. The Office of Management and Budget and the US Census can no longer defend depriving tens of millions of Multiracial Americans that same right.

Not when the data dictates this change is practically, technically, and morally necessary for the collection of data about race and ethnicity in an increasingly multiracial America.